

**EFFECTIVE**

Immediately upon receipt.

**SUBJECT**

Juvenile Guardianship Assistance Policy Additions and Clarifications.

The listed policies will be included in manual items in the next policy release.

*Reason:* Title IV-E state plan requirements.

**Agreements - GDM 740**

The following agreement provisions are added:

- The guardianship agreement is in effect regardless of the state in which the guardian and child reside.
- The agreement includes procedures by which the guardian may apply for additional services as needed.

**School Attendance - GDM 740**

The following policy is added to GDM 740:

All school-age children who receive juvenile guardianship assistance payments must be enrolled full-time (or in the process of enrolling) in elementary or secondary education through a school, home school, or independent study program in accordance with the law in their residence state, or unable to attend school on a full-time basis due to a medical condition that is supported by documentation in the child's case record.

The annual report is used to provide the above information to DHS.

**Case Plan Requirements - Siblings Not Placed Together - GDM 715**

The following policy is added to the Case Plan Requirements section:

The case plan requirements must address the reasons for any separation of siblings during placement. In cases where siblings are not placed together, documentation of the arrangements for regular visitation or other interaction between the siblings must be included

in the case plan, unless there is documentation that the visitation or other ongoing interaction would be detrimental to the safety or well-being of any of the siblings.

### **Eligibility for Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance Payments - GDM 715**

The following wording is added to the title IV-E funded guardianship assistance eligibility section:

Eligibility for title IV-E funded guardianship assistance payments requires that the child be eligible for title IV-E foster care **maintenance payments** while residing for at least 6 consecutive months in the home of the prospective relative guardian.

### **Fingerprinting and Background Checks - GDM 600 and GDM 715**

The following policy replaces the reference to foster care policy FOM 722-3:

Eligibility for the guardianship assistance program requires that guardians meet the same fingerprinting and background check requirements as listed for licensed foster parents in FOM 922-1.

### **Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Children - GDM 600**

The following policy is added to GDM 600:

The Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act of 2006, P.L. 109-239, requires the timely completion of interstate home studies. Juvenile guardianship (including relative) home studies requested by another state must be completed within 60 calendar days. Placements cannot be made until training requirements are met and approval is given by the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) Office. The law also adds an incentive program to encourage states to complete timely interstate home studies. To earn an incentive, the state must complete an interstate home study within 30 calendar days of the request. See FOM 931 - 932-2 for details of the procedures.

**MANUAL  
MAINTENANCE  
INSTRUCTIONS**